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OCT #12
EARTH'S MIGHTIEST HEROES
THE AVENGERS
HEROES REUNITED
PART 2 OF 4
SIMONSON • RYAN • WINN
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EARTH'S MIGHTIEST HEROES

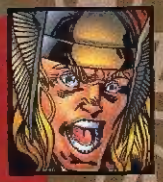
AVENGERS

They are the world's greatest heroes: America's super-soldier, reborn from the ashes of World War II; an immortal thunder god from the golden halls of Asgard; a modern-day knight clad in futuristic armor of his own design; a young woman whose mutant power to affect probability causes some to see her as a witch; an archer whose unerring eye is matched only by the strength of his arms; a brilliant scientist and his one true love, each endowed with the abilities of the smallest of Earth's creatures, the insects; and a hybrid who embodies the finest and most ferocious aspects of the feline species. Together, they stand allied against the threats that none of them can face alone; together, they are much, much more than merely the sum of their parts. They are Earth's Mightiest Heroes—The Avengers!

CAPTAIN AMERICA

The Avengers' moral compass as well as their field leader, *Captain America* has recently been awakened from a decades-long dream to return to the service of his country once again. Originally our greatest fighting man against the Axis forces in WWII, *Cap* now stands vigilant guardian against the evils that plague modern America, while seeking to find his own place in society as *Steve Rogers*.

THOR

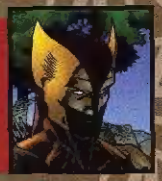


The god of thunder, *Thor* is the immortal son of Odin, chief sky god as worshiped by the Vikings. Departing from his home in hallowed Asgard, *Thor* has sworn to protect the inhabitants of *Midgard* (Earth) from all who would seek to do them harm. By his side he carries the indestructible enchanted hammer, *Mjolnir*, one of the most powerful weapons in the universe.

IRON MAN

Brilliant and fabulously wealthy inventor *Tony Stark* is both the Avengers' chief source of financial support, and also secretly one of their most powerful members. When a near-fatal accident forced *Stark* to don an experimental life-preserving armor of his own design, he chose to take advantage of the fateful occurrence by using the armor to fight for good as the invincible *Iron Man*.

HAWKEYE

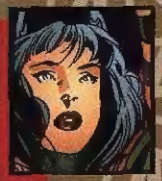


A master archer as well as an accomplished acrobat, *Clint Barton* felt that his talents were wasted on a burgeoning career in the circus and chose instead the life of an adventurer. Cocky and independent, he has always felt that the mantle of leadership in the Avengers would fit his shoulders rather better than it fits anyone else's.

ANT-MAN

Genius scientist *Hank Pym*, researcher in the field of microbiotics, created an incredible Micron gas whose unique properties caused items that it affected to shrink in size. In an attempt to repair the android Avenger known as the *Vision*, *Pym* himself became the first subject of the use of Micron gas on a living being. *Pym* later joined the ranks of the Avengers as the astounding *Ant-Man*.

WASP



Flighty millionaire heiress *Janet Van Dyne* stumbled across *Hank Pym's* notes and his Micron gas when searching for the missing scientist. Hoping to follow in his tracks, she inhaled the experimental gas, only to discover that it awakened a sleeping genetic anomaly within her. Upon attaining a diminutive size, she sprouts insectoid wings, and the ability to deliver a debilitating bio-electric sting, earning her the nickname of *Wasp*.

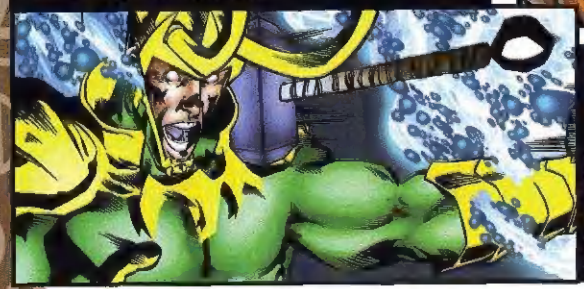
PREVIOUSLY IN AVENGERS

Frustrated with the stalemate battle he has orchestrated, Loki fears the face of failure. Disregarding the risk of death, he consumes all the remaining energy from the gamma reactor housed on Avengers Island, increasing his strength and abilities to the ultimate power.

Towering with power and strength, Loki thunders through New York City dismissing his recruited comrades from the Avengers-- the Enchantress, Scarlet Witch, Hawkeye and Thor 2-- and proclaiming his autonomy over the land.

The Avengers combine all their strength and resources to create the god powerful enough to defeat Loki. Energized by the Sorceresses, Agatha Harkness, the Scarlet Witch and the Enchantress, and powered by the strength and soul of Thor 2, Loki's stepfather, **Odin**, steps into battle!

Channeling Loki's own ammunition, the Avengers use the last of their combined strength to fire the remaining nuclear power from the reactor at Loki. Thor's hammer, Mjolnir, powered with nuclear fire finally eliminates Loki's evil existence.



But this victory sadly comes with the loss of one of their own, the one Thor has come to know as his own brother, Thor 2. Knowing he has defeated Loki, Thor 2 dies an honorable death worthy of the god his name proclaims.

Design by COMICRAFT's Jason Medley

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EPILOGUE....
...TWILIGHT...
...SOMEWHERE ON THE ATLANTIC OCEAN UNDER A FLOWING BREEZE...
...THE LAPPING WHITECAPS DO OBEISANCE TO AN ANCIENT LITANY.
MAY THE SHIP THAT TRAVELS BETWEEN THE WORLDS CARRY THEE TO THY REST.
THINE HAMMER BLESS AND PROTECT THEE ON THIS JOURNEY.
IN THE NAMES OF ALL-FATHER ODIN, OF MOTHER FRIGGA...
...FAREWELL, MY BROTHER. FARE THEE WELL, THOR.
AS THE TREE IS GREEN FOREVER, MAY THY SOUL LIVE IN ETERNITY IN THE HALLS OF HIGH VAHALLA.

SHADOW'S END!

HEROES REUNITED PART 2 OF 4

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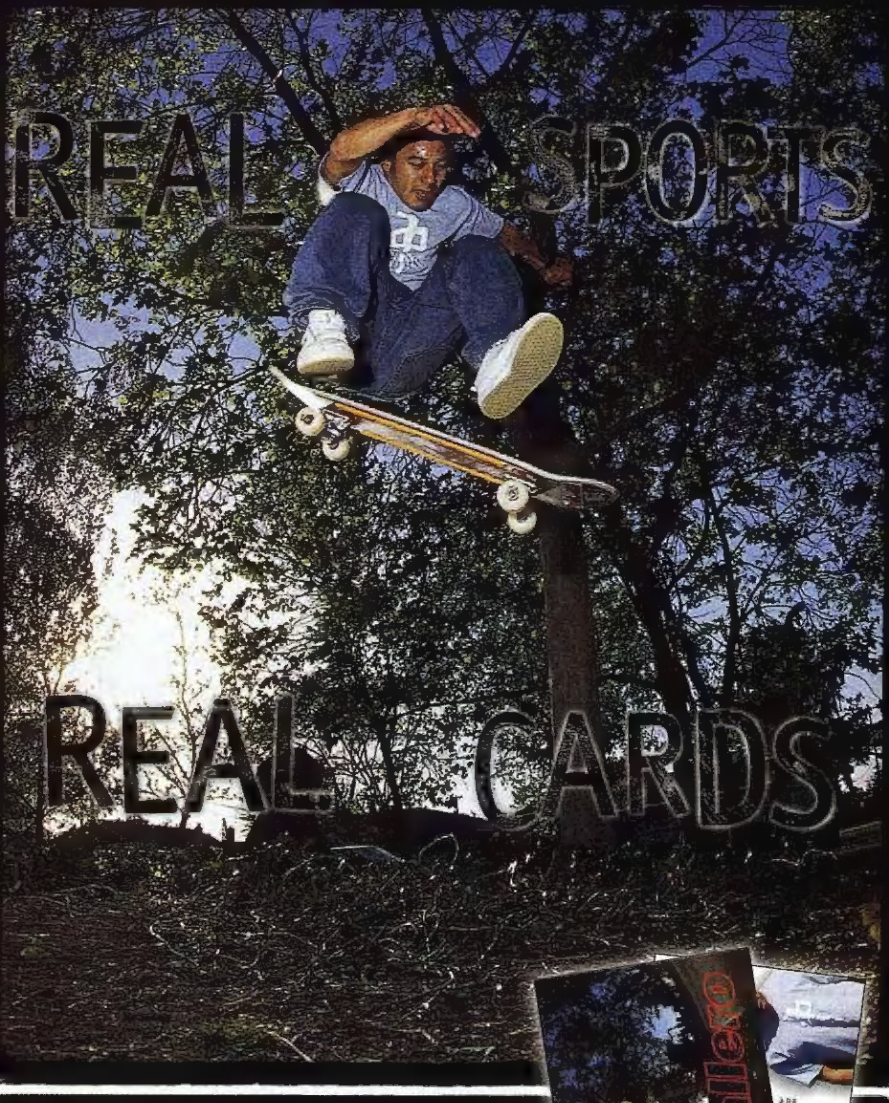
SO BE IT!
HE'S AWAY. YOU MAY FIRE WHEN READY, FURY.
DO YOU *KNOW* WHAT FIRING OUR MAIN BATTERY *ONCE* IS GOING TO COST THE AMERICAN *TAXPAYERS*, NICK?
DO YOU KNOW WHAT IT WOULD HAVE COST THE AMERICAN TAXPAYERS IF HE HADN'T SACRIFICED HIS LIFE*?
* A HEROIC TALE TOLD LAST ISSUE -- Rachelle
YOU MAY FIRE WHEN READY, SERGEANT.
A MOMENT LATER, THE CLOUDS ERUPT...
...AND IN THAT INSTANT, THERE IS A BLAZE OF GLORY NOT SEEN UPON THE FACE OF THE WATERS IN A THOUSAND YEARS...
...AS THE SUN SETS UPON THE BURNING OCEAN.

SHORTLY...
'TWAS WELL DONE.
A PROPER FUNERAL FOR A TRUE VIKING. THANK YOU, COLONEL FURY.
YOU CAN THANK THE PRESIDENT. HE OKAYED IT.
I'M JUST ALONG FOR THE RIDE.
WHAT ABOUT HELLCAT? AND THE VISION? THEY WERE LOKI'S VICTIMS TOO. THEY MUSTN'T BE FORGOTTEN, HANK.
THEY WON'T BE, JAN. TRUST ME.
WHATEVER PRICE WE'VE PAID, WHATEVER HAPPENS NEXT, THIS WILL ALWAYS BE REMEMBERED AS ONE OF THE AVENGERS' FINEST HOURS.
MAYDAY! MAYDAY! COLONEL FURY! DO YOU COPY?
I THINK "NEXT" JUST GOT HERE, CAP!
THIS IS FURY, QUARTERMAIN. WHAT'S YER STATUS?
I'M GOING DOWN, NICK!
COMPLETE SYSTEMS FAILURE! I MANAGED THE FINAL JUMP WITH CHEWING GUM AND BALING WIRE!
GALACTUS IS COMING! HIS HERALDS ARE KILLERS! THEY FRIED MY WARP DRIVE!
GOOD LUCK, NICK, DUM DUM! SEE YOU IN --
SQUARK!

COLONEL! HE'S COMING THROUGH THE ATMOSPHERE AT ABOUT MACH 15, RIGHT FOR THE HELICARRIER!
ALL HANDS! RIG FOR COLLISION!
AT MACH 15, THE JUMP SHIP IS TRAVELING APPROXIMATELY 167 MILES PER MINUTE.
CLAY'S GONE!
DAMAGE REPORT!
SHIP BLEW CLEAN THROUGH US! BUT STABILIZERS ARE AT 87%!
WE CAN HOLD!
SO WHAT THE BLAZES IS A "GALACTUS"?
KAHOOOM
THE DOOMED CRAFT REACHES THE EARTH IN JUST OVER A SECOND.



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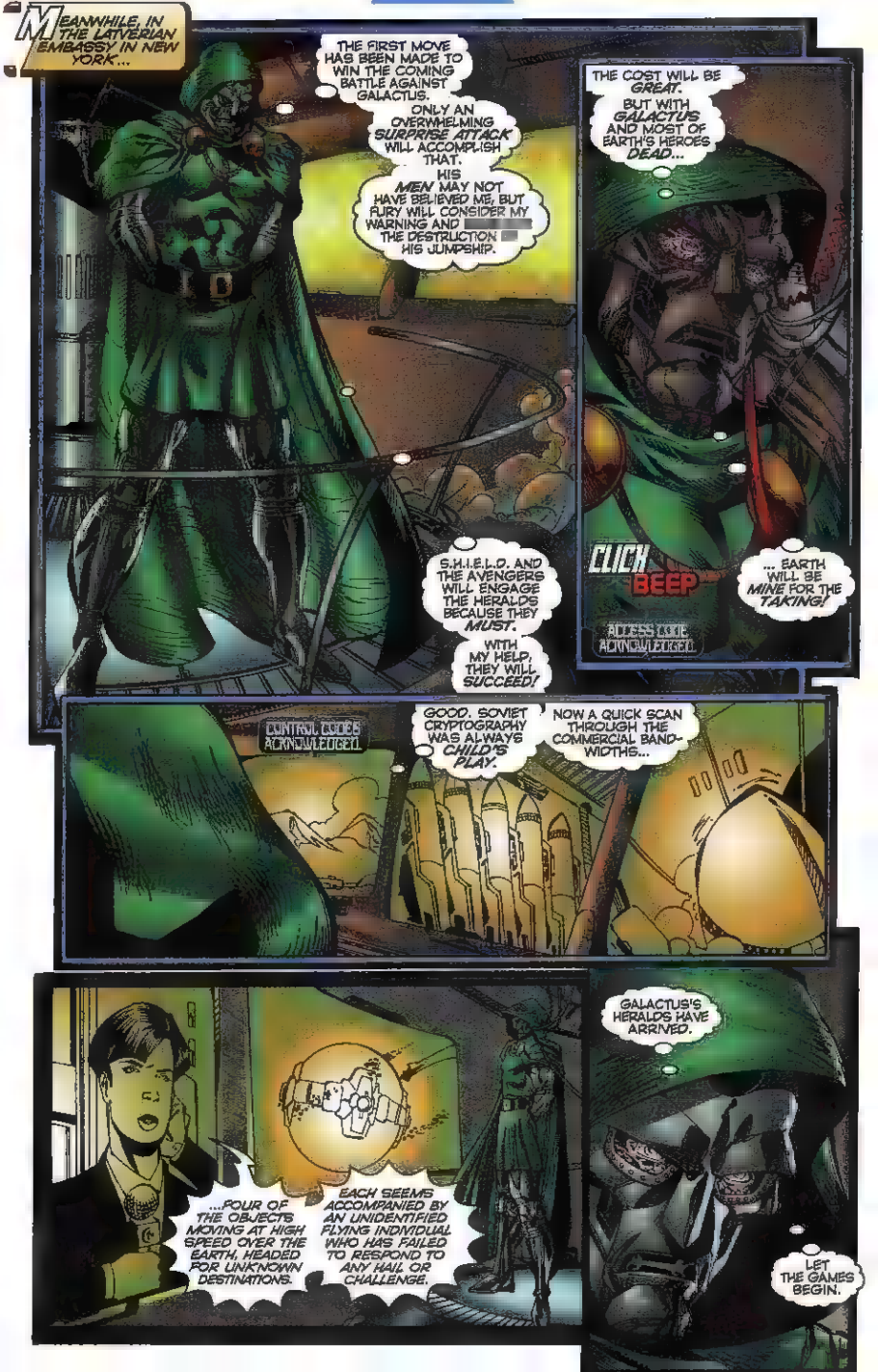
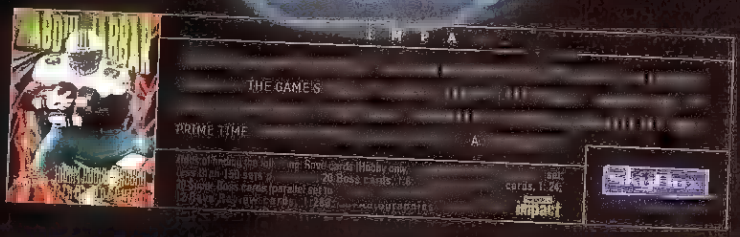
HE IS A GOD.
AND HE HAS COME TO DESTROY US IN HIS WRATH!
WHO --?
IT'S THE ORIGINAL Mr. BAD EXAMPLE!
SCARLET WITCH? AVENGERS? ALLOW ME TO INTRODUCE THE MONARCH OF LATVERIA --
-- AND EVERYBODY'S FAVORITE EVIL MASTERMIND...
...Dr. VICTOR VON DOOM!
BELIEVE ME, HE LIVES UP TO HIS BILLING.
HOW'D HE GET ABOARD THE HELICARRIER?
MAYBE WE'D BETTER FRY HIM RIGHT NOW!
YOU'LL DO NOTHING OF THE SORT. CAN'T YOU SEE HE'S PRACTICALLY HYSTERICAL?
I DO NOT NEED YOUR MEWLING ASSESSMENT, CAPTAIN AMERICA. I HAVE SEEN SIGHTS NO MAN HAS EVER WITNESSED BEFORE!
THE WORLD HAS BEEN DESTROYED!
AND I ONLY AM ESCAPED ALONE TO TELL THEE!

YER NOT IMPRESSIN' ME, DOOM. I READ MOBY DICK TOO.
BESIDES, I AIN'T NOTICED THE WORLD MISSIN' RECENTLY.
FOOLS! GALACTUS HAS ALREADY COME ONCE WITH HIS HERALDS. HE TORE THE VERY CORE OF THE EARTH LOOSE FROM ITS FOUNDATIONS...
...AND DEVOURED THE SUM OF THE WORLD'S ENERGIES!*
MY CHRONO-SQUARE HAS ENABLED ME TO RETURN IN TIME ONLY MOMENTS BEFORE HIS ARRIVAL TO WARN YOU.
* SEE FF SR 12 -- Rachelle
HE HAS COME ALREADY! HE WILL COME AGAIN!
YOU MUST REARM THE ICBMS*, KILL HIS HERALDS WHEN THEY ARRIVE...
* INTER-CONTINENTAL BALLISTIC MISSILES -- Rachelle
...AND DESTROY THE CAPACITORS BEFORE THEY CAN BE IMPLANTED TO BOIL THE SEAS AND REDUCE THE PLANET TO RUBBLE!
IT'S EARTH'S ONLY HOPE.
Uhh... TIME TRAVEL. RIGHT. YOU WANT US TO INCAPACITATE THIS LOON, COLONEL?
FOOLS, I SAY AGAIN! YOU CANNOT TOUCH ME...
...BUT YOU WILL REGRET YOUR INSOLENCE. REMEMBER MY WARNING AS YOU DIE!
THKAKL
Hmmm. IF DOOM CAN DO THAT, MAYBE HE WASN'T LYING ABOUT THE TIME MACHINE OR GALACTUS.
HE MIGHT NOT HAVE BEEN, CAP. LEMME FILL YOU IN ON QUARTERMAIN'S MISSION... AND HIS EXPERIMENTAL JUMPSHIP.


MEANWHILE, IN THE LATVERIAN EMBASSY IN NEW YORK...
THE FIRST MOVE HAS BEEN MADE TO WIN THE COMING BATTLE AGAINST GALACTUS.
ONLY AN OVERWHELMING SURPRISE ATTACK WILL ACCOMPLISH THAT.
HIS MEN MAY NOT HAVE BELIEVED ME, BUT FURY WILL CONSIDER MY WARNING AND [redacted] THE DESTRUCTION [redacted] HIS JUMPSHIP.
S.H.I.E.L.D. AND THE AVENGERS WILL ENGAGE THE HERALDS BECAUSE THEY MUST.
WITH MY HELP, THEY WILL SUCCEED!
THE COST WILL BE GREAT.
BUT WITH GALACTUS AND MOST OF EARTH'S HEROES DEAD...
CLICK
BEEP
ACCESS CODE ACKNOWLEDGED.
... EARTH WILL BE MINE FOR THE TAKING!
CONTROL CODES ACKNOWLEDGED.
GOOD. SOVIET CRYPTOGRAPHY WAS ALWAYS CHILD'S PLAY.
NOW A QUICK SCAN THROUGH THE COMMERCIAL BAND-WIDTHS...
...FOUR OF THE OBJECTS MOVING AT HIGH SPEED OVER THE EARTH, HEADED FOR UNKNOWN DESTINATIONS.
EACH SEEMS ACCOMPANIED BY AN UNIDENTIFIED FLYING INDIVIDUAL WHO HAS FAILED TO RESPOND TO ANY HAIL OR CHALLENGE.
GALACTUS'S HERALDS HAVE ARRIVED.
LET THE GAMES BEGIN.

AND ABOARD THE HELICARRIER...
AFTER THE ASTRONOMICAL ANOMALY WAS DISCOVERED, CLAY VOLUNTEERED TO TAKE OUR EXPERIMENTAL JUMPSHIP BEYOND PLUTO FOR A RECON.
YOU SAW HIS HOME-COMING.
YOU THINK QUARTERMAIN FOUND GALACTUS, COLONEL?
ON THE BASIS OF WHAT'S HAPPENING RIGHT NOW? YEP. THE FOUR BILLIARD BALLS 'N' THEIR SHEPHERDS ARE HEADIN' FOR THE ANTARCTIC, MOSCOW, HONG KONG, AND LOS ANGELES.
SO MAYBE DOOM WUZ RIGHT. WE CAN'T TAKE ANY CHANCES.
IF YER GAME, THE AVENGERS COULD --
WE'RE READY NOW, COLONEL. WHERE?
HONG KONG.
THE HELICARRIER'S COURSE HAS ALREADY BEEN ALTERED FOR L.A.
"I'VE GOT SOME VOLUNTEERS HEADING FOR MOSCOW...
"...AND THE SOUTH POLE."

THIS BIRD'LL PUT YOU THERE IN AN HOUR.
WHEN YOU GET THERE, YOU CAN --
THE SCARLET WITCH AND I WON'T BE GOING, COLONEL.
HANK! I THOUGHT --
HONEY, I BELIEVE DOOM! AND I BELIEVE THAT IF EARTH IS GOING TO SURVIVE, WE'LL ALL HAVE TO DO OUR PART.
THANKS TO S.H.I.E.L.D., YOU'RE NOW ARMED WITH AN INCREDIBLY LETHAL STINGER. YOU'LL BE ABLE TO HELP.
AS ANTMAN, THERE ISN'T A WHOLE LOT I CAN DO.
BUT HANK PYM, SCIENTIST, IS ANOTHER STORY.
AND THE SCARLET WITCH CAN HELP ME.
BESIDES, WITH THOR AND IRON MAN AND CAP, YOU'LL BE AS SAFE AS ANYONE COULD BE UNDER THE CIRCUMSTANCES.
JUST... BE CAREFUL, DARLING. I'LL JOIN YOU AS SOON AS I CAN.
OH, HANK... I DO LOVE YOU SO.
WHAT GIVES, PYM? SOME VISION OF THE FUTURE?
SINCE YOU'VE ALREADY GUESSED, COLONEL...
...YOU CAN HELP BY GIVING WANDA AND ME A LIFT BACK TO MY LAB...
...A.S.A.P.



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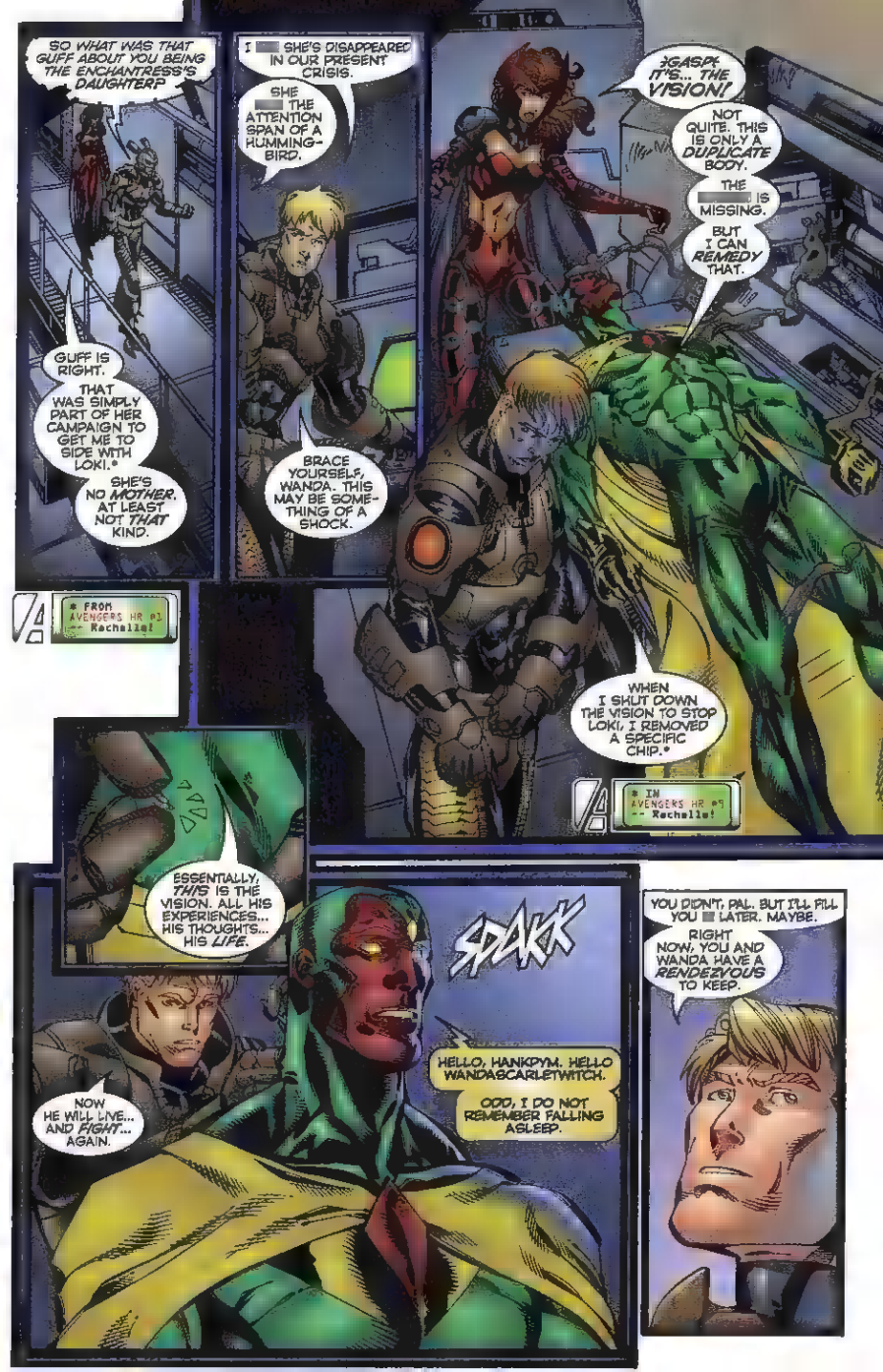
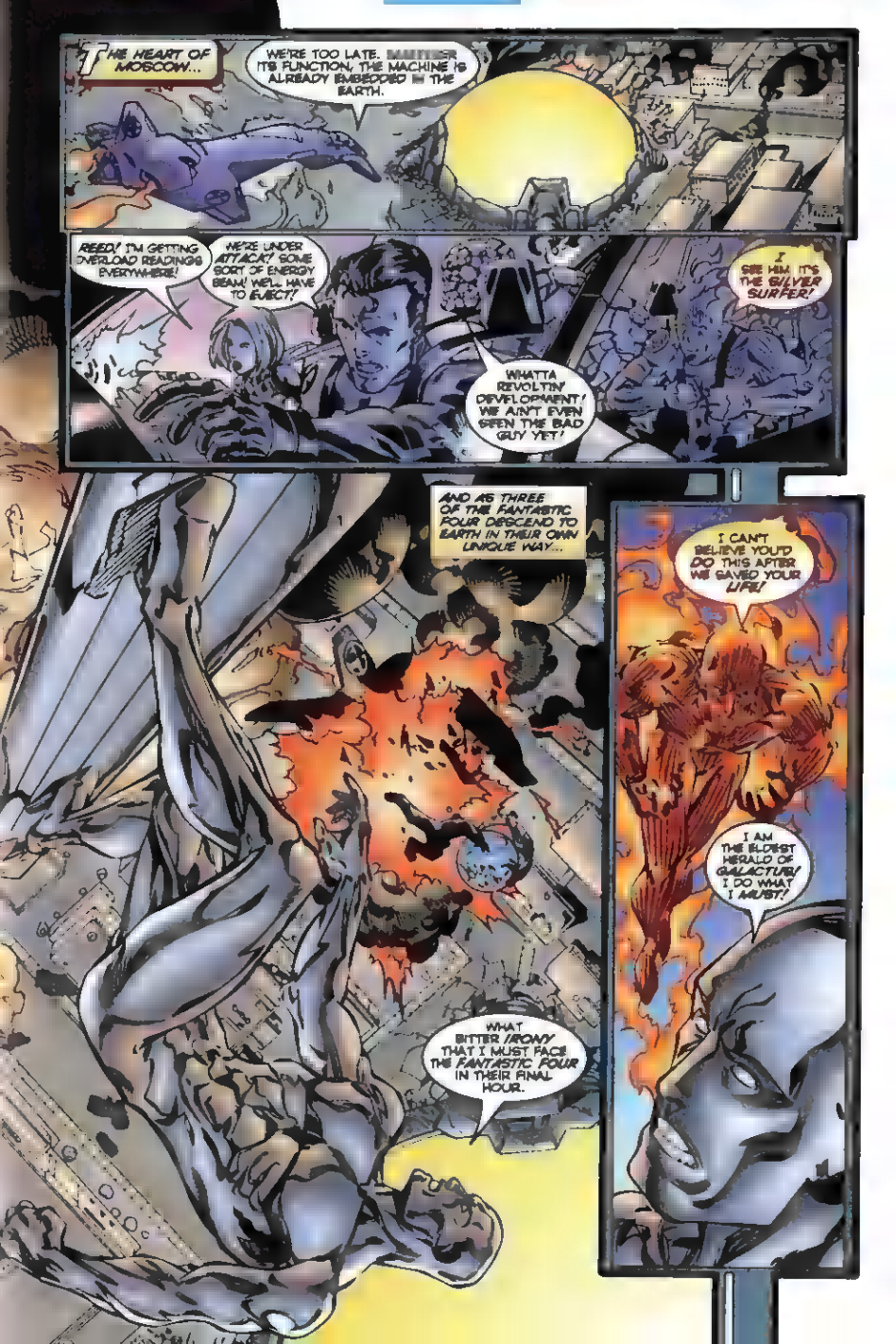
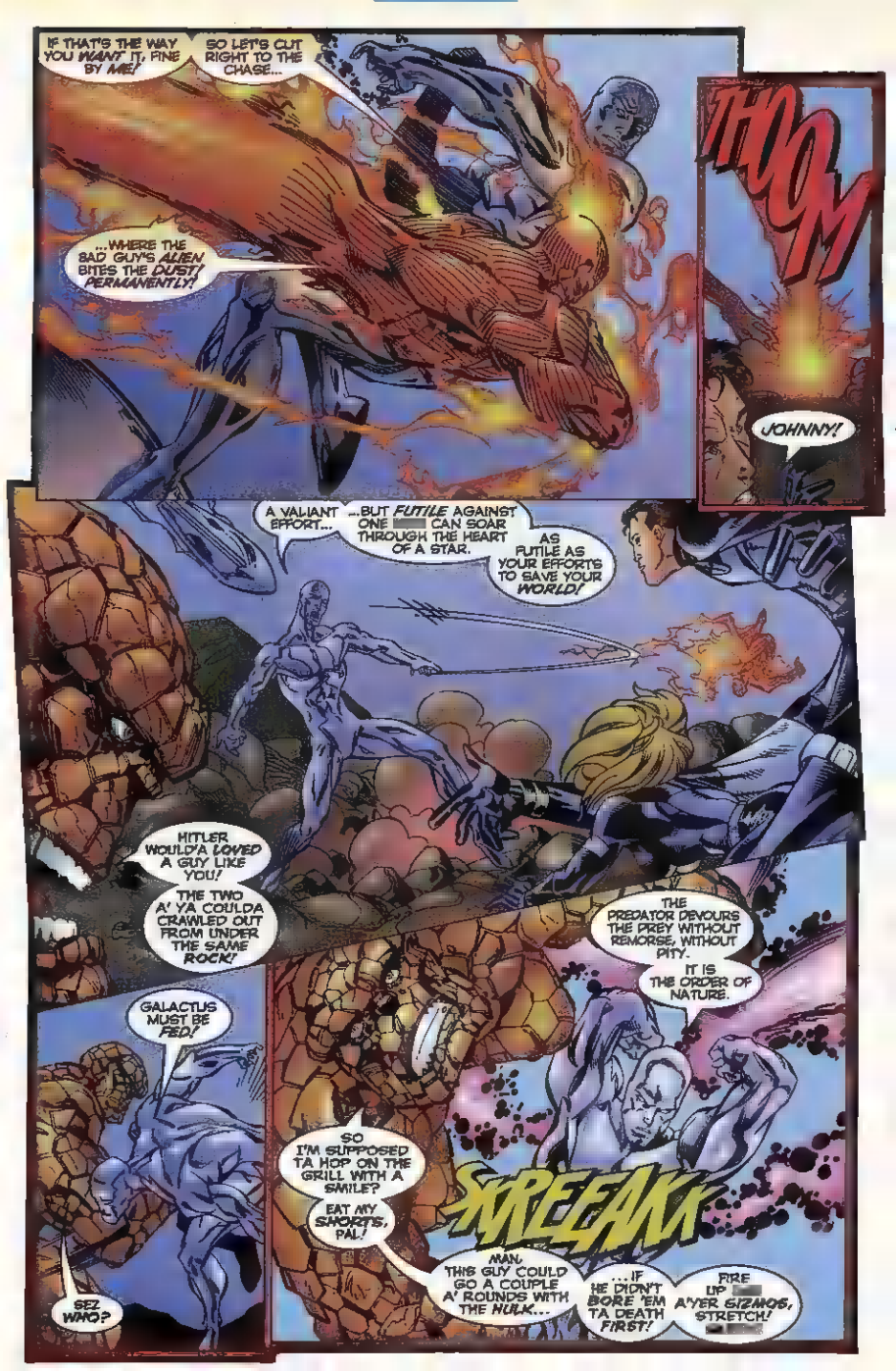

SO WHAT WAS THAT GUFF ABOUT YOU BEING THE ENCHANTRESS'S DAUGHTER?
GUFF IS RIGHT. THAT WAS SIMPLY PART OF HER CAMPAIGN TO GET ME TO SIDE WITH LOKI.*
SHE'S NO MOTHER. AT LEAST NOT THAT KIND.
I [redacted] SHE'S DISAPPEARED IN OUR PRESENT CRISIS.
SHE [redacted] THE ATTENTION SPAN OF A HUMMING-BIRD.
BRACE YOURSELF, WANDA. THIS MAY BE SOME-THING OF A SHOCK.
* FROM AVENGERS HR #1 -- Rachelle!
GASP! IT'S... THE VISION!
NOT QUITE. THIS IS ONLY A DUPLICATE BODY.
THE [redacted] IS MISSING.
BUT I CAN REMEDY THAT.
WHEN I SHUT DOWN THE VISION TO STOP LOKI, I REMOVED A SPECIFIC CHIP.*
* IN AVENGERS HR #7 -- Rachelle!
ESSENTIALLY, THIS IS THE VISION. ALL HIS EXPERIENCES... HIS THOUGHTS... HIS LIFE.
SPAKK
HELLO, HANKPYM. HELLO WANDASCARLETWITCH.
ODD, I DO NOT REMEMBER FALLING ASLEEP.
NOW HE WILL LIVE... AND FIGHT... AGAIN.
YOU DIDN'T, PAL. BUT I'LL FILL YOU [redacted] LATER. MAYBE.
RIGHT NOW, YOU AND WANDA HAVE A RENDEZVOUS TO KEEP.

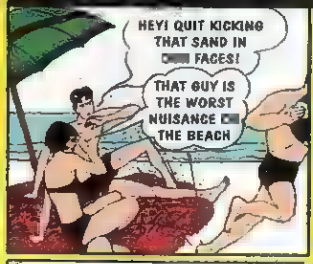

THE HEART OF MOSCOW...
WE'RE TOO LATE. REGARDLESS OF ITS FUNCTION, THE MACHINE IS ALREADY EMBEDDED IN THE EARTH.
REED! I'M GETTING OVERLOAD READINGS EVERYWHERE!
WE'RE UNDER ATTACK! SOME SORT OF ENERGY BEAM! WE'LL HAVE TO EJECT!
I SEE HIM. IT'S THE SILVER SURFER!
WHATTA REVOLTIN' DEVELOPMENT! WE AIN'T EVEN SEEN THE BAD GUY YET!
AND AS THREE OF THE FANTASTIC FOUR DESCEND TO EARTH IN THEIR OWN UNIQUE WAY...
I CAN'T BELIEVE YOU'D DO THIS AFTER WE SAVED YOUR LIFE!
I AM THE ELDEST HERALD OF GALACTUS! I DO WHAT I MUST!
WHAT BITTER IRONY THAT I MUST FACE THE FANTASTIC FOUR IN THEIR FINAL HOUR.

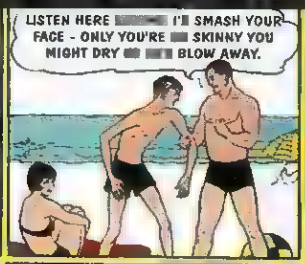

IF THAT'S THE WAY YOU WANT IT, FINE BY ME!
SO LET'S CUT RIGHT TO THE CHASE...
...WHERE THE BAD GUY'S ALIEN BITES THE DUST! PERMANENTLY!
THOOM
JOHNNY!
A VALIANT EFFORT...
...BUT FUTILE AGAINST ONE CAN SOAR THROUGH THE HEART OF A STAR.
AS FUTILE AS YOUR EFFORTS TO SAVE YOUR WORLD!
HITLER WOULD'A LOVED A GUY LIKE YOU!
THE TWO A' YA COULDA CRAWLED OUT FROM UNDER THE SAME ROCK!
THE PREDATOR DEVOURS THE PREY WITHOUT REMORSE, WITHOUT PITY.
IT IS THE ORDER OF NATURE.
GALACTUS MUST BE FED!
SO I'M SUPPOSED TA HOP ON THE GRILL WITH A SMILE?
EAT MY SHORTS, PAL!
SKREEAKK
SEZ WHO?
MAN, THIS GUY COULD GO A COUPLE A' ROUNDS WITH THE HULK...
...IF HE DIDN'T BORE 'EM TA DEATH FIRST!
FIRE UP A'YER GIZMOS, STRETCH!

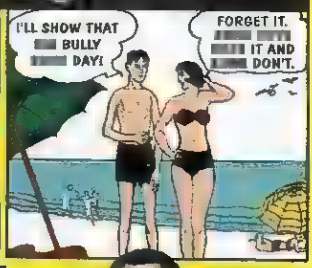
Hey Fellas, Ever Been Called . . .

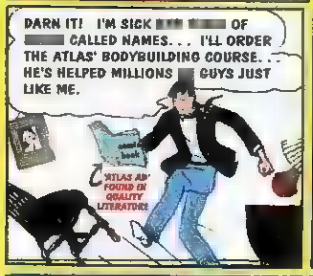
"Skinny", "Loser", "Scrawny", or "Fat"

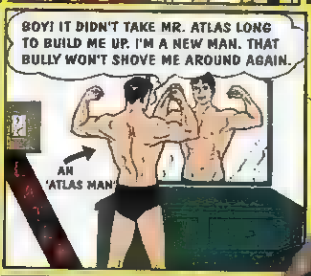
Charles Atlas Is Here To Change All That!

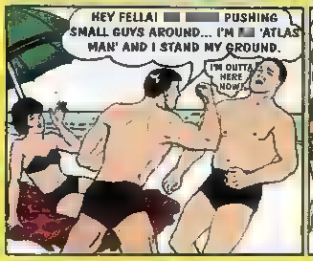


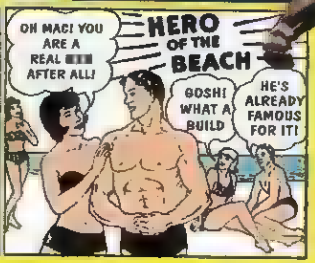





DARN IT! I'M SICK OF CALLED NAMES. . . I'LL ORDER THE ATLAS' BODYBUILDING COURSE. . . HE'S HELPED MILLIONS GUYS JUST LIKE ME.
ATLAS AD FOUND IN QUALITY LITERATURE







I WAS CALLED THOSE NAMES TOO!

That's right fellas, I understand how it feels to be called those names. I was skinny "97-pound weakling." I so ashamed of my scrawny body that I dreaded being seen in a swim suit or going to the . The girls wouldn't look at me and the guys gave respect. That all changed for me, and I'll change it for you. I'll make you an **"Atlas Man."** You'll have strong muscles, confidence and power from within.

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BUFFOON! EVEN IN THE LAST EXTREMITY, YOU'D JEST AS THOUGH THE SHOW WENT ON FOREVER!
ALONE OF ALL HUMAN BEINGS, I KNOW THAT IT WILL NOT... ...UNLESS WE CHANGE THE HERE AND NOW.
A PITY THIS SHALL BE SO
CIRCUMSTANCES FORCE ME TO FOREGO THE IMMEDIATE GRATIFICATION OF DESTROYING THE FANTASTIC FOUR WITH MY OWN HANDS.
BUT GREAT MONARCHS LEARN TO DELEGATE.
LAUNCH SEQUENCE ALPHA THREE TANGO ONE. DESTINATION MOSCOW.
AND SOMEWHERE EAST OF THE URAL MOUNTAINS, THE EARTH YAWNS...
...AND SPITS DEATH INTO THE SKY!

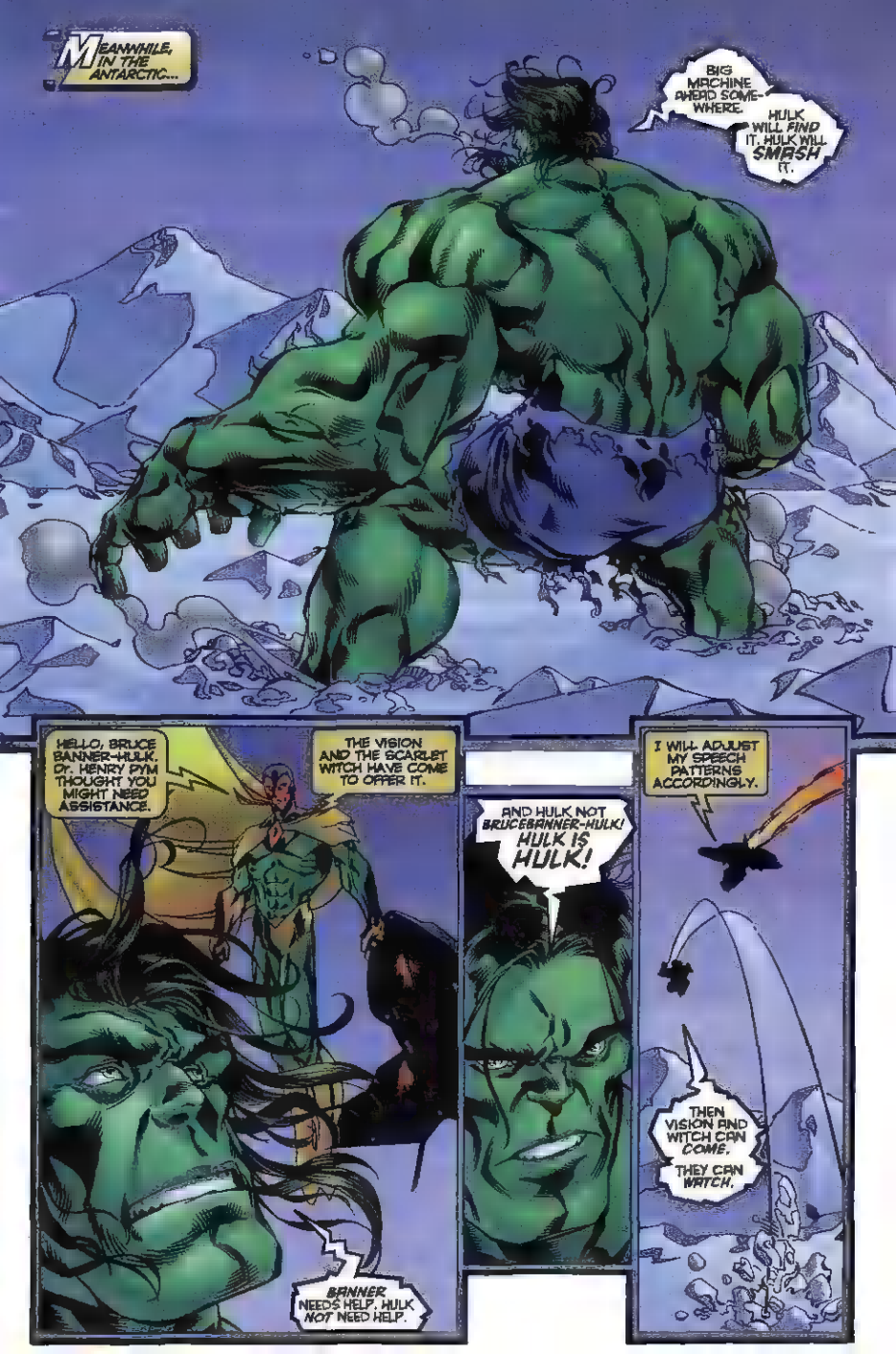
WHILE IN MOSCOW...
YOUR FIGHTING HEART DOES YOU CREDIT, THING!
UGGH! THAT AIN'T A DIME WOULDN'T BUY ME A CUP A' COFFEE AT STARBUCKS THESE DAYS, CREEP!
STRETCH! I COULD USE A LITTLE HELP HERE!
BACK OFF, BEN! I'M READY FOR ANOTHER ROUND!
MY ENERGY ABSORBITRON BURNED THE CRASH BUT I'VE GOT TO RECALIBRATE THE ENTROPY CHAMBER, SUE!
IT'S ONLY A BETA MODEL!
AND THE SURFER'S ZEROING IN ON BEN AND JOHNNY!
DON'T WORRY, DARLING. I'LL SHIELD THEM!
THE INVISIBLE WOMAN'S [redacted] FIELD! IMPRESSIVE.
BUT ALREADY IT'S WEAKENING UNDER MY COSMIC ONSLAUGHT!
C'MON, SUZIE! DROP IT SO I CAN CLOCK 'IM AGAIN!
SCKHASH

I JUST REALIZED I'M FIGHTING THE WRONG FOE!
YOU ARE THE ORGANIZING FACTOR OF THIS TEAM.
IT IS YOU I MUST DEFEAT!
YOU UNDERESTIMATE THE RESOURCEFULNESS OF EACH MEMBER OF THE FANTASTIC FOUR, SURFER...
... BUT I'VE TAKEN YOUR MEASURE NOW!
UCHCHH
KREEAACCKT
JOHNNY! STAND WHERE YOU ARE!
HUH? HEY, WAIT A MINNIT, REED!
WHAT ARE YOU DOING? NO!
SHFRAHM
BEN! THE SURFER! NAIL HIM!

WITH PLEASURE!
BUT [redacted]AT DID YA DO TA JOHNNY?
TWRAK
POWER, BEN! REED'S GIVEN ME POWER LIKE I NEVER FELT BEFORE!
I CAN TAKE OUT THE CAPACITOR! I KNOW I CAN! WATCH THIS!
FWOOSH
BWHAWHARDOM
THE SKY ABOVE RUSSIA TURNS BLOOD RED AS THE CAPACITOR EXPLODES.

STAY PUT, YA BLASTED JUMPIN' BEAN!
I AIN'T FINISHED KNOCKIN' YA INTO NEXT WEEK!
YOUR LEADER'S PLOY WAS ONLY TEMPORARILY EFFECTIVE!
ALREADY, THE POWER COSMIC RETURNS TO MY BODY!
AND THIS TIME, I'LL NOT — WHAT?!
INCREDIBLE! SURELY NOT EVEN [redacted] WOULD DO THING!
I DON'T BELIEVE IT! MY SENSORS SHOW --
SUE! WE NEED A FORCE FIELD AROUND THE FOUR OF US! AS STRONG AS YOU CAN MAKE IT! NOW!
Oh, REED! I CAN'T [redacted] IT! I'M EXHAUSTED FROM HOLDING BACK THE SURFER'S BLASTS!
WHAT IS IT? WHAT'S THE MATTER?
MY HEART, I WANT YOU TO KNOW THAT WHETHER THIS WORLD IS SAVED OR NOT...
... I WILL CARRY MY LOVE FOR YOU IN MY SOUL FOREVER.
REED?
I.C.B.M.'S TRAVEL FAR ABOVE THE SPEED OF SOUND.
THERE IS NO WARNING.

[redacted] IS MERELY THE TOTAL DESTRUCTION OF MOSCOW...
...AND THE THOUSAND SQUARE MILES THAT SURROUND IT.
A SINGLE ENTITY ALONE SURVIVES.
...BUT TO DECLARE HIS UNDYING LOVE.
[redacted] THE FACE OF CERTAIN DEATH. HOW WONDROUSLY STRANGE.
RICHARDS OBVIOUSLY KNEW THE END WAS AT HAND...
...YET HIS ONLY THOUGHT WAS NOT TO CURSE HIS FATE...
AND FAR AWAY IN THE LATVERIAN EMBASSY...
UNFORTUNATE. THE CAPACITOR'S BEEN DESTROYED, BUT NOT THE SURFER.
I'LL HAVE TO INCREASE THE MEGATONNAGE NEXT TIME.


MEANWHILE, IN THE ANTARCTIC...
BIG MACHINE AHEAD SOMEWHERE. HULK WILL FIND IT. HULK WILL SMASH IT.
HELLO, BRUCE BANNER-HULK. DR. HENRY PYM THOUGHT YOU MIGHT NEED ASSISTANCE.
THE VISION AND THE SCARLET WITCH HAVE COME TO OFFER IT.
BANNER NEEDS HELP. HULK NOT NEED HELP.
AND HULK NOT BRUCEBANNER-HULK! HULK IS HULK!
I WILL ADJUST MY SPEECH PATTERNS ACCORDINGLY.
THEN VISION AND WITCH CAN COME. THEY CAN WATCH.

AND IN THE HILLS BEYOND LOS ANGELES...
WE MADE IT, COLONEL!
THERE'S THE CAPACITOR!
[illegible] US AROUND. MAIN BATTERIES TO REAR!
WHERE IN BLAZES IS THAT THING'S [illegible]?
SHE'S JUST [illegible]'VE US, SIR!
YA DON'T SAY.
A COUPLE MORE SHOTS LIKE THAT AND WE'RE HISTORY!
SQUADRON ONE, BREAK LEFT. TWO, [illegible] RIGHT!
THE REST A' YA FOLLOW ME!
WE GOTTA KEEP HER OFF BALANCE!
SPRANG
THE DOGFIGHT RAGES FURIOUSLY FOR A GOOD FIVE MINUTES AS THE HELICARRIER EDGES EVER CLOSER TO THE CAPACITOR, WHEN SUDDENLY...
SLAM
UGH!
COLONEL FURY?
TAKE OVER, SERGEANT!

99 bullet-riddled bodies on the wall,
99 bullet-riddled bodies,
take one down, pass it around,
98 bullet-riddled bodies on the wall.
98 bullet-riddled bodies...

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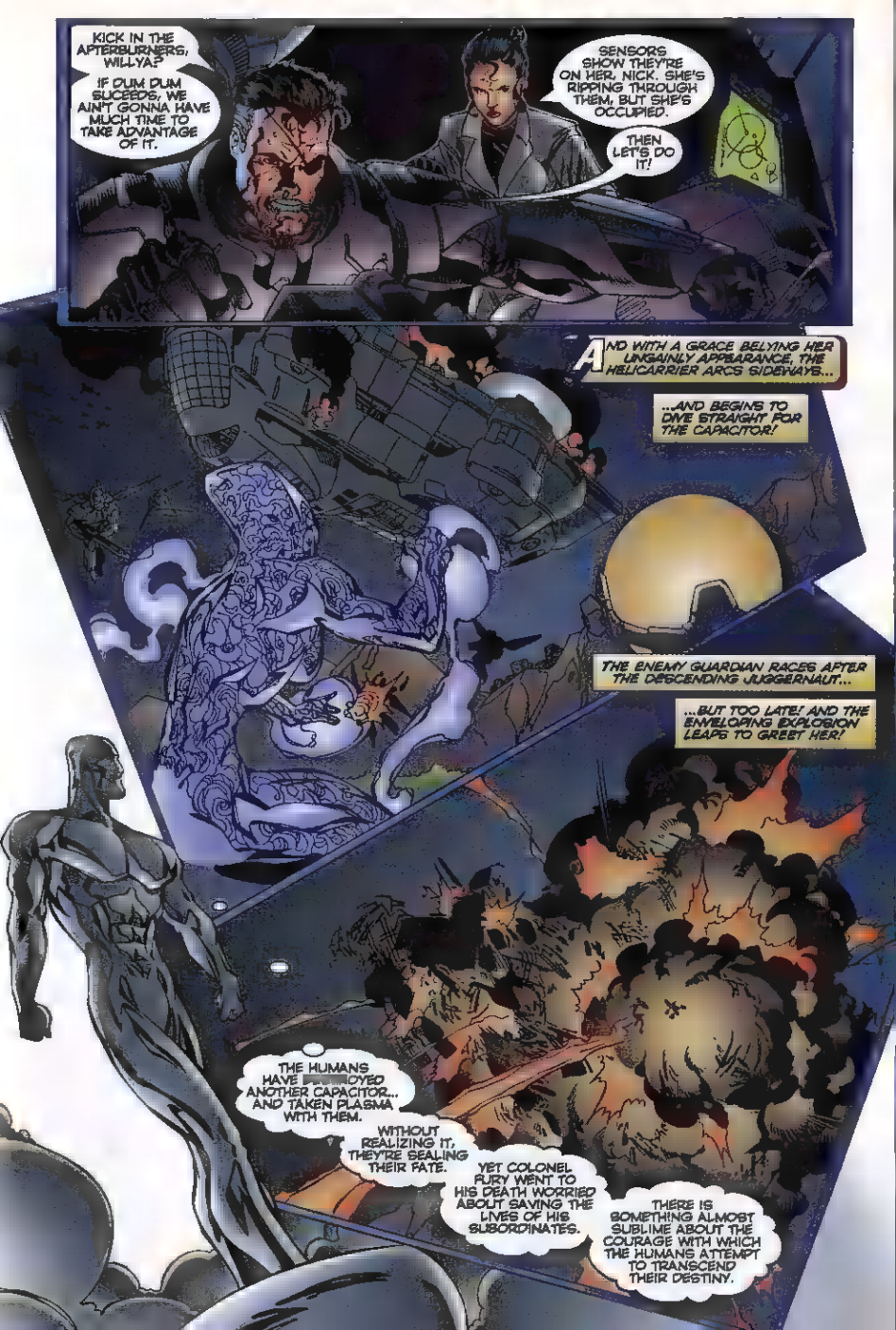
DUM DUM! STATUS REPORT!
WE'RE LOSING, NICK. THE OLD TUB'S TOO BADLY DAMAGED AND WE CAN'T SAVE HER. IT'S ONLY A MATTER OF MINUTES --
-- YER WOUNDED?!
IT'S TIME TA THROW A "HAIL MARY" PASS, DUM DUM.
MARSHAL THE TROOPS AND TOSS EVERYTHING YA GOT AT HER. I NEED THIRTY SECONDS.
NICK --?
SEE YA AROUND, YA OL' WALRUS. WATCH MY BOYS. NOW BEAT IT.
SURE, NICK. I'LL SEE YOU AROUND.
YOU HEARD THE MAN! LOCK AND LOAD! ABANDON SHIP! NOW!
NICK, WE'VE GOT TO GET YOU MEDICAL ATTENTION.
IT'S NOT IMPORTANT I STAY ALIVE.
IT'S IMPORTANT EARTH STAY ALIVE!
GET OUTTA HERE, COUNTESS. WE'RE GOIN' DOWN IN FLAMES AN' I'M DRIVIN'.
I'LL LEAVE WHEN I'M READY, NICK. I'M NOT READY YET.
SUIT YERSELF.


KICK IN THE AFTERBURNERS, WILLYA?
IF DUM DUM SUCEEDS, WE AIN'T GONNA HAVE MUCH TIME TO TAKE ADVANTAGE OF IT.
SENSORS SHOW THEY'RE ON HER, NICK. SHE'S RIPPING THROUGH THEM, BUT SHE'S OCCUPIED.
THEN LET'S DO IT!
AND WITH A GRACE BELYING HER UNGAINLY APPEARANCE, THE HELICARRIER ARCS SIDEWAYS...
...AND BEGINS TO DIVE STRAIGHT FOR THE CAPACITOR!
THE ENEMY GUARDIAN RACES AFTER THE DESCENDING JUGGERNAUT...
...BUT TOO LATE! AND THE ENVELOPING EXPLOSION LEAPS TO GREET HER!
THE HUMANS HAVE [redacted]OYED ANOTHER CAPACITOR... AND TAKEN PLASMA WITH THEM.
WITHOUT REALIZING IT, THEY'RE SEALING THEIR FATE.
YET COLONEL FURY WENT TO HIS DEATH WORRIED ABOUT SAVING THE LIVES OF HIS SUBORDINATES.
THERE IS SOMETHING ALMOST SUBLIME ABOUT THE COURAGE WITH WHICH THE HUMANS ATTEMPT TO TRANSCEND THEIR DESTINY.

THE SLOPES OF MT. EREBUS IN THE ANTARCTIC...
SATELLITE COORDINATES CONFIRMED, SCARLETWITCH. THERE IS THE CAPACITOR!
HULK WILL DESTROY IT NOW!
KATHAHAM
STAY BACK, YOU GROTESQUE MOCKERY OF A HUMAN BEING! YOU'LL DESTROY NOTHING!
HULK, ARE YOU --?
FLAME HEAD BURN HULK. HULK ANGRY!
THAT BEAM WOULD HAVE INCINERATED ANY ORDINARY BEING.
THE DESTRUCTION OF A WORLD THAT SPAWNED SUCH FREAKS WILL BE A BLESSING FOR THE COSMIC BALANCE.

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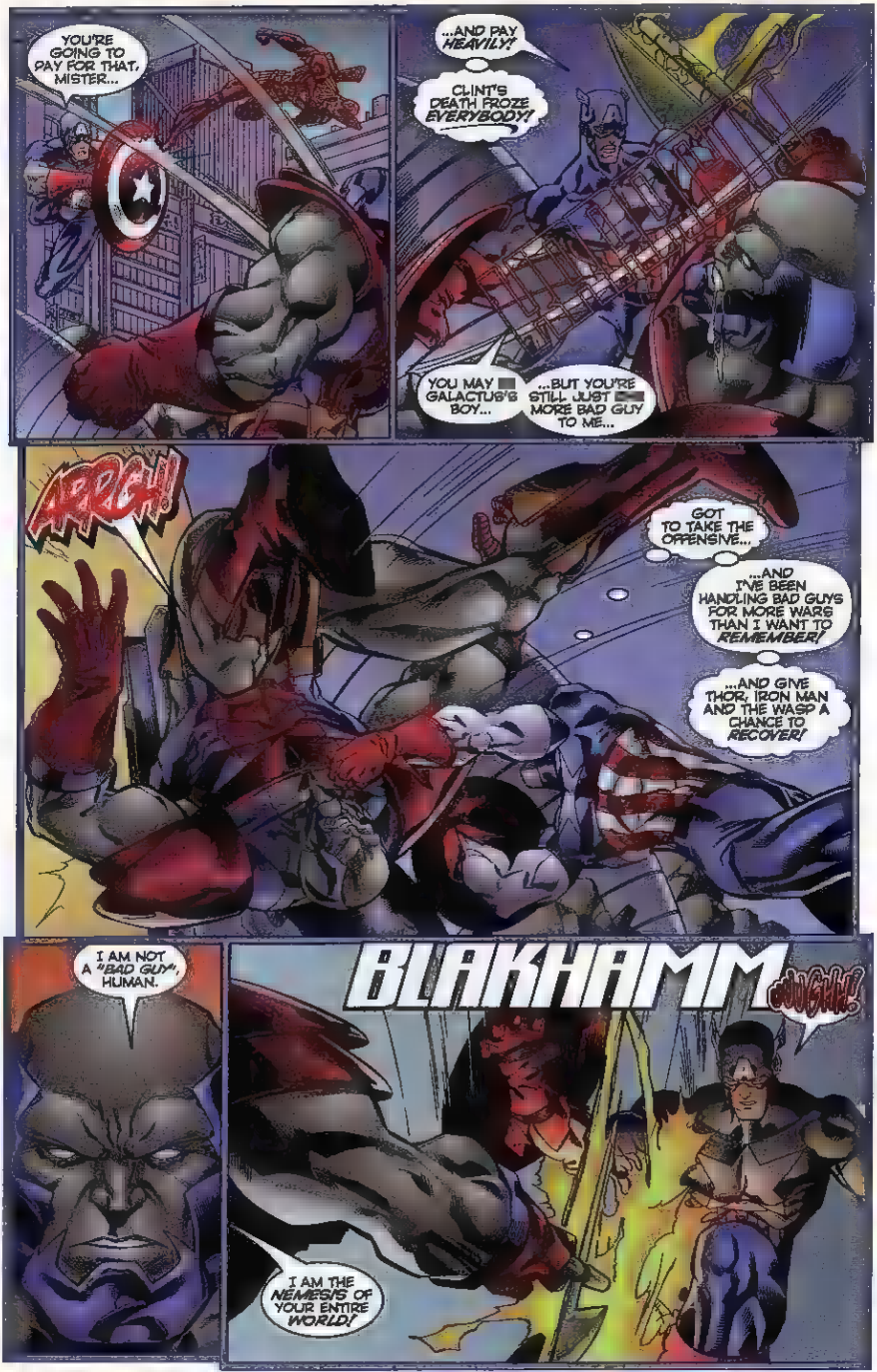
FLAME HERD TALK TOO MUCH!
FIRELORD, THE HERALD OF GALACTUS, DOES MORE THAN TALK.
AAARRGHH
HE WIELDS THE POWER OF LIFE AND DEATH!
HULK!
WEAK? YOU SHOULD BE DEAD!
OWWOAAL
SCHOOOM
HULK FEEL... WEAK... HURT... BANNER... COMES...!
FIRELORD'S POWER IS INCREDIBLE, BUT A SPELL OF CONFUSION SHOULD FREEZE HIM FOR A MOMENT!
SCARLETWITCH HAS GIVEN ME MY OPPORTUNITY!
WITH A QUICK SHIFT IN MOLECULAR DENSITY...
GRAAAK
...I CAN TAKE FIRELORD BY SURPRISE AND DISARM HIM OF HIS WEAPON!

FOOLS! EVEN IF YOU DEFEAT ME, YOU'LL BE FINISHING YOURSELVES!
WITHOUT THE SUPPORT OF HIS STAFF, FIRELORD IS UNABLE TO STAY ALOFT!
FLAME HEAD NOT TALK ANY MORE!...
THWAKAM
...ANY MORE...
THE INJURED HULK NO LONGER HAS THE POWER TO DESTROY THE CAPACITOR...
...BUT THANKS TO FIRELORD...
...AND A RAPID INSTRUMENT SCAN OF HIS STAFF...

I DO!
SPREKHRANNG
VISION, I THINK BRUCE IS DYING.
WE MUST GET HIM TO A DOCTOR QUICKLY.
NO!
...CAN'T BEAT HIM... THIS WAY...
...MUST TELL... REST OF THE AVENGERS... TELL...
AND FAR ABOVE THE BURNING WASTELANDS...
BANNER UNDERST[illegible] THE PLAN! [illegible] WOULD TO GIVE THE OTHERS LIFE! AND HOPE!
EARTH WILL INDEED BE A RARE FEAST FOR GALACTUS.

HONG KONG, WHERE THE BODIES OF SLAUGHTERED [redacted] TROOPS ATTEST TO THEIR FAILURE TO DISLODGE THE GREAT ALIEN ENGINE...
...OR ITS GUARDIAN.
I AM TERRAX, HERALD OF GALACTUS.
I CLAIM THIS TERRITORY IN HIS NAME. DEPART... OR DIE!
IT MATTERS NOT TO ME.
HOW ABOUT IF -- HAWKEYE!
NO!
AND I'VE STILL GOT LOKI'S ARROWS!
LET'S SEE HOW LAUGHING BOY HANDLES A LOW YIELD THERMOGRADE NUKE!
SPTKRDOAKK
DON'T TRY TO STOP ME, CAP! I'M JUICED!
ARCH!
SKRAAAKK
AKEEEEE
YOU... HURT ME! I DO NOT REMEMBER THE LAST TIME THAT HAPPENED...
...BUT MY AX IS A DEFENSIVE AS WELL AS AN OFFENSIVE WEAPON!
I THINK YOU WILL NOT HANDLE YOUR WEAPON'S ENERGY QUITE SO EASILY!
CLINT!
HE'S GONE!


YOU'RE GOING TO PAY FOR THAT, MISTER...
...AND PAY HEAVILY!
CLINT'S DEATH FROZE EVERYBODY!
YOU MAY ■ GALACTUS'S BOY...
...BUT YOU'RE STILL JUST ■ MORE BAD GUY TO ME...
ARRGH!
GOT TO TAKE THE OFFENSIVE...
...AND I'VE BEEN HANDLING BAD GUYS FOR MORE WARS THAN I WANT TO REMEMBER!
...AND GIVE THOR, IRON MAN AND THE WASP A CHANCE TO RECOVER!
I AM NOT A "BAD GUY", HUMAN.
BLAKHAMM
GRUGHH!
I AM THE NEMESIS OF YOUR ENTIRE WORLD!

BLAST HAWKEYE!
PYTHOOOM
HE HADN'T MIGHT HAVE CHANCE TO GET OUT OF THIS WITH-
PUT
TERRAX SEEMS MORE DANGEROUS THAN ANYONE WE'VE EVER MET!
EVEN THE WASP'S STING DOESN'T AFFECT HIM!
I HAVE SHATTERED WORLDS, HUMAN! YOUR SIMPLE, MORTAL WEAPONS ARE NOTHING TO ME!
AND YOUR COMPANION PREPARES TO DELIVER A BLOW WITH A SIMPLE HAMMER?
YOU WASTE MY TIME!
FIRST I WILL CRACK YOUR ARMOR LIKE AN EGG-SHELL...
...AND THEN A BLAST OF COSMIC ENERGY TO DESTROY YOUR ALLY!
THOR! LOOK OUT!
SHRAAK
JAN! NOOO!
THE WASP CAUGHT THE BRUNT OF TERRAX'S BLAST!
SHRAAK
I SWEAR HER SACRIFICE SHALL NOT BE IN VAIN!

MJOLNIR MAY SEEM ONLY A HAMMER, TERRAX...
...BUT 'TIS A WEAPON FORGED FOR THE GODS!
IT ENCOMPASSES THE POWER AND FURY OF THE VERY THUNDER...
...AND BY THE BEARD OF ODIN, 'TWILL BE YOUR NEMESIS!
THRAKHOOM
THE SHELL OF THE CAPACITOR SHATTERS...
...AND A MOMENT LATER...
KRAKKADOOM
YOU DID IT, THOR.
THE AVENGERS DID IT, CAPTAIN...
...AND THOUGH THE EXPLOSION... HAS SORELY WOUNDED ME...
...I WILL SURVIVE.
WE HAVE TO GET BACK TO NEW YORK.
I MUST TELL HANK ABOUT JAN.
AGAIN, IN THE MIDST OF DEATH, THERE IS CONCERN. COMPASSION.
COULD IT BE THAT GALACTUS' HUNGER IS WRONG? THAT THERE IS SOMETHING WORTH SAVING ON THIS IMPERFECT WORLD?

BULLPEN BULLETINS

AVAILABLE AUGUST 27

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It's VENOM versus GHOST RIDER, ■ the life of a South American political leader at stake! ■ all is not what it seems! By IVAN VELEZ, JR. and TOM DERENICK! **$2.25**

WOLVERINE

It's WOLVERINE, ■. It's OPERATION: ZERO TOLERANCE! Need ■ say more?!? Okay, we will! Wolvie and the X-MEN know the truth ■ the PRIME SENTINELS. Too bad they have to try and stop 'em, too! By LARRY HAMA and LEINIL FRANCIS YU! **$1.99**

X-FORCE

Beginning an all-new, all-different direction for X-FORCE! In the aftermath of OPERATION: ZERO TOLERANCE and with CABLE among the missing, the kids ■ the only path open ■ them: road trip! By JOHN FRANCIS MOORE and ADAM POLLINA! **$1.99**

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SPIDER-MAN CYBERCOMIC STORY

Part One! Things turn *fowl* for SPIDER-MAN when New York City is infiltrated by clones of HOWARD THE DUCK! By GLENN GREENBERG and DAERICK GROSS! **$1.49**

ITEM! Forget Jack Kerouac, 'cause the kids from X-FORCE ■ hitting the road in ■ big way! Come X-FORCE #70, the gang will be setting out to discover America, find their roots, and regroup after the events of OPERATION: ZERO TOLERANCE. Seems that nutty bad guy, BASTION, has made the home of CHARLES XAVIER completely inhospitable. Add into the mix the fact that CABLE, the team's leader, has insisted that they go underground and get themselves some new identities and that DOMINO has taken a leave of absence, and you've got a team in need – of a vacation! Beginning this very issue, the team's travel plans will be set, and before this trip is over, nothing will be the same! Old haunts will be visited and new territories explored. An old face will be returning to the fold, while two members of the team will be departing ■ their own journeys. Look for big changes and big suntans before this puppy draws to ■ close! When writer JOHN FRANCIS MOORE and penciler ADAM POLLINA are through, this team will need a vacation just to recover from their vacation!

ITEM! Some of us brave Bullpenners snuck out of work on a recent Sunday afternoon (Shhh! Don't tell BOB HARRAS!), and took in a screening of *Men In Black*, the new science fiction comedy that's breaking box office records! Starring Tommy Lee Jones and Will Smith, it's the story of two covert government agents safeguarding the world from an alien invasion, ■ topic we're very familiar with here in the hallowed halls of wackiness! *Men In Black* (or MIB, as ■ like to call ■ around here) ■ the latest comic book-related concept to make it to the silver screen, and with its surefire success, you can expect to see plenty more! Take it from us: the film is hilarious, visually stunning, and just gobs of fun!

ITEM! SPIDER-MAN fans both old and new ■ certainly aware of the impact that the GREEN GOBLIN has had on our favorite web-slinger's life. But now, he's going to change things more than you could ever imagine in the incredible, gut-wrenching SPECTACULAR SPIDER-MAN #250! NORMAN OSBORN, the original Green Goblin, was one of Spider-Man's first and greatest foes. And the long, bitter conflict between them has taken some classic turns, including the tragic death of GWEN STACY, the apparent demise of Norman himself, and the painful, twisted fate of Norman's son, HARRY, who ultimately died as ■ victim of the Goblin's madness. Since his "death" in AMAZING SPIDER-MAN #122, Norman's reach has continued to be far-reaching. Readers have since learned that Osborn was responsible for the CLONE SAGA, and his return in the now-classic PETER PARKER, SPIDER-MAN #75 resulted in the apparent death of Peter Parker's baby. But all of that was merely a prelude to SPECTACULAR #250. In this incredible issue, Norman returns, determined to make himself ■ permanent fixture in the life of everyone's favorite guy with the webs, and to make life miserable for some of your favorite supporting characters, including J. JONAH JAMESON, BEN URICH, MARY JANE PARKER and LIZ OSBORN! And that's just Norman's day job! With the secret identity of Spider-Man in his possession, ol' Norm is ■ villain who won't be going away anytime soon! And if the story and art by J.M. DeMATTEIS, LUKE ROSS and DAN GREEN aren't enough, this incredible milestone issue features a killer *double gatefold cover* by the very Spiderific team of JOHN ROMITA, SR. and his beloved offspring, JR. JR.!

STAN'S SOAPBOX!

Hi, Heroes!

Fasten your seat-belts! It's No-Prize time again, ■ the most widely read column in all of comicdom proudly bequeathes literary immortality upon our three ■ letter writers!

Brian J. Langlois of Memphis, TN generously invested a 32-cent stamp in an emotional effort to learn:

"Stan, how do you really feel about the 'Heroes Reborn' storyline?"

I had ■ problem with the storyline, B.J. Anything that offers some new angles and contains interesting surprises usually works for me – and best of all, I knew we'd be able to get back to our original grooves once the series ended.

Uh-oh! Here's another winner who forgot to include his address! So, Nick Keppler, contact us quickly and know thee that thy No-Prize doth safely reside within the mighty Marvel vault at Fort Knox. Nick asks:

"I heard that you planned to write real books before you started at Marvel. Do you regret not seeing your ■ up there with Shakespeare's?"

Hey, Nick, first of all, whoever said comics aren't real books?! And secondly, why would I want to share the limelight with some guy who never even invented ■ single mutant? Hey, I've enjoyed writing comics – no regrets!

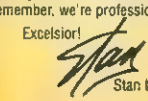
Speaking of mutants (O, how cleverly we segue from subject to subject!), Katie LaVoie of Carlton, MN displays her feminine curiosity by asking:

"Can you give us any details on the X-Men movie?"

Sure, Kate! How about the fact that the same wordsmith wizard who wrote *Men In Black*, my pal Ed Solomon, is writing our X-Men screenplay! And it'll be helmed by another pal of mine, the brilliant Bryan Singer, who helmed *The Usual Suspects*! Twentieth Century Fox is the studio, and as soon ■ ■ cast is chosen, all you Soapbox screen buffs'll be the first to know!

But now, as our No-Prize Laureates proudly accept the plaudits and accolades of their loved ones, I want to leave you with a warning. Under no circumstances, no matter how tempted you may be, should you ever try to make your own No-Prize ■ home! Remember, we're professionals!

Excelsior!



Stan Lee

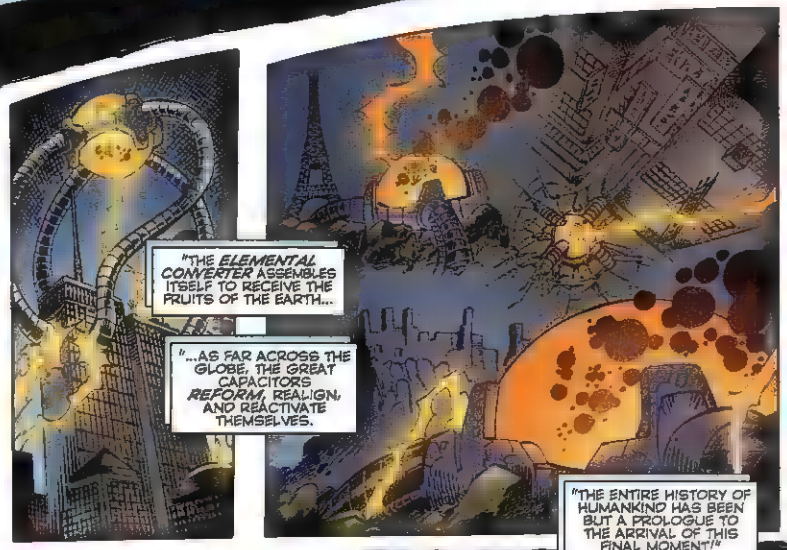
For the ■ reader ■ ■ hundred who doesn't know this yet: Send your letter to: "Stan's Soapbox," c/o BULLPEN BULLETINS, ■ Comics, 387 Park Avenue South, New York, NY 10016. A No-Prize with your ■ may ■ waiting!

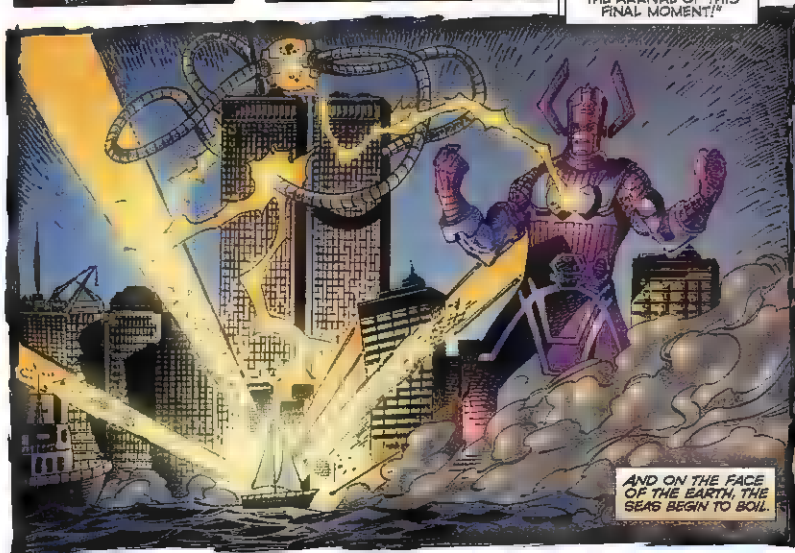
Design by Richard Starkings and COMICRAFT

AND DEEP BENEATH THE LATVERIAN EMBASSY IN NEW YORK CITY...
-- A GIGANTIC SPHERE IS HOVERING AT THIS MOMENT ABOVE THE ISLAND OF MANHATTAN. NO ONE KNOWS --
THE MOMENT I HAVE BEEN ANTICIPATING IS HERE!
THE FANTASTIC FOUR ARE GONE, THE AVENGERS BADLY DEPLETED, S.H.I.E.L.D. [redacted] UNLIKELY TO RECOVER...
...AND GALACTUS'S GREAT CRAFT HAS TAKEN ITS PLACE UPON THE STAGE!
IT'S A SHAME TO LOSE NEW YORK. I'VE ALWAYS ENJOYED THE CITY.
PTHIK
I'LL HAVE TO SEE THAT SOME SORT OF MONUMENT IS PLACED HERE WHEN THE WORLD IS REBUILDING UNDER MY LEADERSHIP.
PERHAPS A STATUE OF DOOM'S UNBOUNDED SORROW AT THE SACRIFICES THE PEASANTS HAVE HAD TO MAKE ON BEHALF OF MY VICTORY.
AND NOW I MUST MAKE THOSE SACRIFICES A REALITY.
HALF A WORLD AWAY, CIRCUITS CLOSE...
...ROCKET FUEL COMBUSTS...
...AND [redacted] OF THE FORMER SOVIET UNION [redacted] IN A THERMONUCLEAR DETONATION.
KaBOOM!
DREAMS DIE HARD.

THAT'S FAR ENOUGH, GALACTUS. WE HAVE DESTROYED YOUR CAPACITORS. YOU CANNOT HAVE THE EARTH.
THE GIANT FIGURE PAUSES FOR A MOMENT...
...AND THEN RAISES A HAND TOWARDS THE GREAT SPHERE ABOVE THE CITY.
I AM THE AIR-WALKER. I SPEAK FOR THE MASTER.
BY DESTROYING THE CAPACITORS, YOU HAVE SIGNIFIED THAT YOUR PLANET IS READY FOR HARVESTING.

YOUR ARSENALS HAVE BEEN
AND AS ON A THOUSAND THOUSAND OTHER WORLDS, YOU WILL BECOME ONE WITH GALACTUS!
SHAAKKAAKK
NOW BACK! NONE MAY STAND SO CLOSE TO THE MASTER.


"THE ELEMENTAL CONVERTER ASSEMBLES ITSELF TO RECEIVE THE FRUITS OF THE EARTH...
"...AS FAR ACROSS THE GLOBE, THE GREAT CAPACITORS REFORM, REALIGN, AND REACTIVATE THEMSELVES.
"THE ENTIRE HISTORY OF HUMANKIND HAS BEEN BUT A PROLOGUE TO THE ARRIVAL OF THIS FINAL MOMENT!"

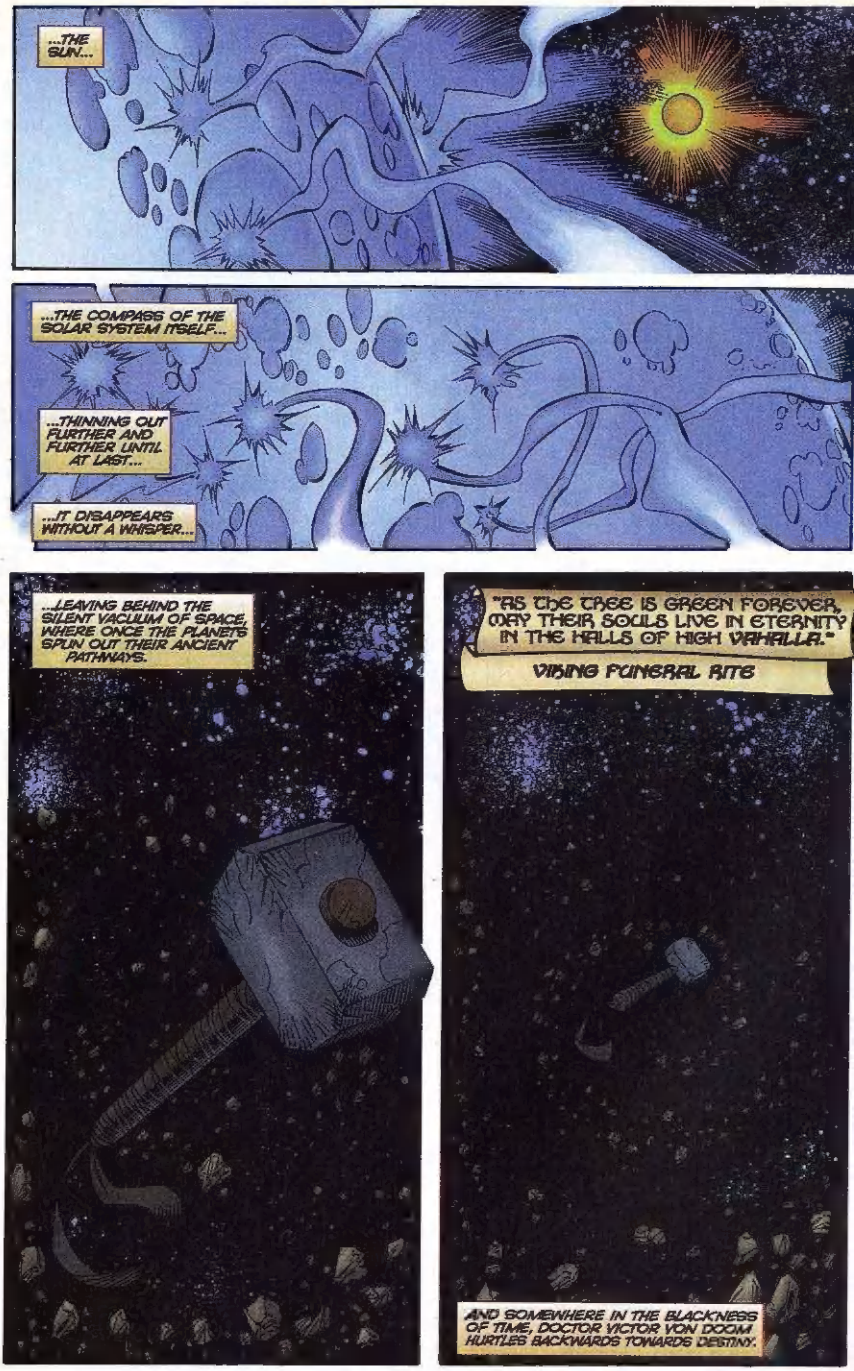

AND ON THE FACE OF THE EARTH, THE SEAS BEGIN TO BOIL.

TONY STARK'S MANSION, THE AVENGERS' TEMPORARY HQ...
VISION! WANDA! GIVE ME A HAND.
THOR AND IRON MAN ARE BADLY -- DOCTOR DOOM! WHAT'S HE DOING HERE?
HE CAME TO OFFER HIS AID.
TOO LITTLE, TOO LATE.
WE'VE RUN OUT OF OPTIONS.
BRUCE IS GONE. BUT HE'S GIVEN US THE ANSWER!
OUR LIVES, OUR WORLD ARE ALREADY FORFEIT...
...BUT WE MAY YET BE ABLE TO SAVE COUNTLESS MILLIONS FROM SHARING OUR FATE!
THIS IS MADNESS!
FOOL THAT I WAS TO COME HERE! THE CHRONO-SQUARE IS MY ONLY HOPE!
HANK, I'VE GOT TO TELL YOU --
I ALREADY KNOW, CAP. THERE'S NOTHING YOU COULD HAVE DONE TO SAVE JAN.
I'VE ALREADY SHED MY TEARS. I'LL CRY AGAIN LATER IF THERE'S A WORLD TO CRY IN.
I CAN'T BELIEVE WE'VE LOST. WE FOUGHT SO HARD.
AIR-WALKER SAID OUR WORLD IS ONLY ONE OF A MILLION GALACTUS HAS DESTROYED.
HOW MANY MILLIONS WILL HE RAVAGE? IF ONLY WE COULD HAVE [redacted] HIM.
BRUCE KNEW, CAP. LISTEN UP. HE DOESN'T HAVE MUCH TIME.
COUGH GAMMA REACTOR... AVENGERS ISLAND...
...DESTROY IT... OPEN THE FLAW IN SPACE-TIME FABRIC WITHIN...*
WARP ENGULFS... SOLAR SYSTEM'S GRAVITY WELL... GALACTUS... EVERYTHING...
...FOLLOW CALCULATIONS *COUGH*
* WE COVERED THE PHYSICS OF THIS THE LAST COUPLE OF ISSUES -- Rachelle

AVENGERS ISLAND... IN THE CONTAINMENT BUILDING OF THE R[redacted] THAT ONCE HOME [redacted] MIGHTIEST HEROES...
THOR
THE JOURNEY HERE HAS REOPENED [redacted] WOUNDS; HE'S GETTING WEAKER.
WITHOUT THE POWER OF THOR'S HAMMER, WE CAN'T SUCCEED.
PERHAPS I CAN HELP.
THE SILVER SURFER! BUT YOU'RE ONE OF GALACTUS'S HERALDS!
AND I WOULD DO WHAT NO HERALD HAS EVER DONE... BETRAY GALACTUS.
I HAVE LED THE MASTER TO MANY WORLDS THAT NO LONGER EXIST.
AS WITH ANY GREAT PREDATOR, THERE IS NO EVIL IN HIM, BUT I HAVE COME TO SYMPATHIZE WITH THE PREY.
...PERHAPS [redacted] CAUSE I WAS SAVED BY THEM.*
I HAVE WATCHED YOU AND YOUR FELLOWS AS YOU FOUGHT TO SAVE YOUR WORLD...AND NOW, WORLDS YET UNBORN.
IN THE TERROR OF THESE MOMENTS, I HAVE WITNESSED LOVE, COMPASSION, DEEP SORROW, AND BANNER'S [redacted] HOPE FOR THE UNIVERSE'S FUTURE.
PERHAPS ITS FUTURE IS NOT INEVITABLE.
AND I HAVE MUCH TO BE FORGIVEN FOR.
WE DON'T HAVE MUCH TIME, SURFER.
CAN YOU HELP THOR?
NOVER IN [redacted] R

THE COSMIC ENERGY OF THE CAPACITORS HAS INJURED HIM.
BUT THE SAME POWER CAN HEAL THOSE WOUNDS.
MY BODY... RESTORED! OUR TALE IS NOT YET TOLD!
I THANK THEE, SURFER, FOR THY GOOD OFFICES
VISION, YOU KNOW WHAT TO DO?
I AM READY, CAPTAIN AMERICA. FAREWELL.
THE VISION GLIDES INTO THE REACTOR WALL...
SPRACCT
...AND INSTANTLY SOLIDIFIES TO HIS DENSEST MASS!
HE'S BREACHED THE REACTOR CORE!
MAXIMUM OUTPUT! NOW!
PTHTHOOOM
THOU HAST DONE IT, MY COMPANIONS! NOW LET MJOLNIR SPLIT THE THUNDERING CHAOS ASUNDER!
AND I WILL ADD THE FORCE OF MY OWN COSMIC POWER!

IN THE NEXT INSTANT, AVENGERS ISLAND CEASES TO EXIST...
...AS THE BREACH IN SPACE AND TIME EXPLODES OUT OF WHAT WAS ONCE THE GAMMA REACTOR CORE!
INDEED?
AND RIPPLING OUT ALONG THE CONTOURS OF THE GRAVITY WELL....
...THE ALL-CONSUMING MAW OF [redacted] THE [redacted]...


...THE SUN...
...THE COMPASS OF THE SOLAR SYSTEM ITSELF...
...THINNING OUT FURTHER AND FURTHER UNTIL AT LAST...
...IT DISAPPEARS WITHOUT A WHISPER...
...LEAVING BEHIND THE SILENT VACUUM OF SPACE, WHERE ONCE THE PLANETS SPUN OUT THEIR ANCIENT PATHWAYS.
"AS THE TREE IS GREEN FOREVER, MAY THEIR SOULS LIVE IN ETERNITY IN THE HALLS OF HIGH VAHALLA."
VIKING FUNERAL RITE
AND SOMEWHERE IN THE BLACKNESS OF TIME, DOCTOR VICTOR VON DOOM HURTLES BACKWARDS TOWARDS DESTINY.

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- ☐ FAC X-Factor
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